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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/805,908	03/22/2004	David Quijano	200313207.1	9683

22879 7590 08/29/2005

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EXAMINER

BUI, HUNG S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2841

DATE MAILED: 08/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/805,908	QUIJANO, DAVID	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Hung S. Bui	2841	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-2, 4-8, 10, 12, 14-15, 17-19 and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Felman et al. [US 6,205,020].

Regarding claims 1 and 4, Felman et al. disclose a motherboard module (figures 2-3), comprising:

- a motherboard (16) that includes a processor and memory (column 7, lines 57-65); and
- a connector panel (104) that provides access to connectors (116) that are connected to the motherboard, wherein the connector panel and the circuit board are connected together so as to form a single, integrated unit that can be installed in a computer (figure 3).

Regarding claim 2, Felman et al. disclose the connectors (116) being mounted to the motherboard (figures 2-3).

Regarding claim 5, Felman et al. disclose the connector panel comprising openings with which the connectors are aligned or extend through (figures 2-3).

Regarding claims 6 and 17, Felman et al. disclose at least one connector being attached to the connector panel (figures 2-3).

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Regarding claims 7, 12 and 18, Felman et al. disclose the at least one connector being also mounted to the motherboard so as to securely connect the connector panel to the motherboard (figures 2-3).

Regarding claims 8 and 19, Felman et al. disclose the connector panel comprising connection elements (114) that are configured to connect the panel to a computer chassis (figure 2-3).

Regarding claim 10, Felman et al. disclose a motherboard module separate from a computer (figures 2-3), the module comprising:

- a computer motherboard (16) that includes a processor and memory (column 7, lines 57-65), the motherboard having input/output connectors (116) mounted adjacent a rear edge of the motherboard (figures 2-3); and
- a connector panel (104) having openings that are configured to receive the input/output connectors mounted to the motherboard so as to provide access to the connectors to a computer user, the connector panel further comprising connection elements that are configured to connect the panel to a computer chassis (figures 2-3);
- wherein the motherboard and the connector panel are connected together so as to form a single, integrated unit in which the rear edge of the motherboard aligns with the connector panel and the motherboard extends normal from the connector panel.

Regarding claims 14-15, Felman et al. disclose a computer (figures 2-3), comprising:

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- an outer housing (18) and a chassis mounted within the outer housing (figures 1-3); and
- a pre-assembled motherboard module (figures 2-3) that includes a motherboard (16) that is mounted within the chassis and a connector panel (104) that is accessible from the exterior of the computer, the motherboard and the connector panel being connected together to form a single, integrated unit (figures 1-3), the motherboard including a processor, memory, and input/output connectors, connectors (column 7, lines 57-65).

Regarding claims 21-22, the method of manufacturing a computer would have been inherent in the product structure.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3, 11, 16 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Felman et al. in view of Sacherman et al. [US 5,973,926].

Regarding claims 3, 11 and 16, Felman et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the motherboard being mounted thereon a computer chassis by fasteners through openings.

Sacherman et al. disclose a computer chassis having a motherboard (102) including openings (104, figure 5) that are adapted to receive fasteners (302) to secure the motherboard to a computer chassis.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a fastener design of Sacherman et al. for the circuit board of Felman et al., for the purpose of securing circuit board into the computer.

Regarding claims 23, the method of manufacturing a computer would have been inherent in the product structure.

5. Claims 9, 13, 20 and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Felman et al., as modified, as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Anderson et al. [US 6,550,877].

Regarding claims 9, 13 and 20, Felman et al., as modified, disclose the instant claimed invention except for the connection elements including tabs secured by slots of a computer chassis.

Anderson et al. disclose a computer chassis (figure 1) having a connector panel including a plurality of connection elements (112), wherein the connection elements have plurality of tabs (108) are configured for receipt by plurality of slots (figure 4) of a computer chassis.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a securing element design of Anderson for the securing element of Felman et al., as modified, for the purpose of enabling assembly.

Regarding claims 24-25, the method of manufacturing a computer would have been inherent in the product structure.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Scholder et al. [US 5,605,911] disclose an apparatus for the expansion of computer chassis input/output connections;
- Dent [US 5,555,158] discloses a motherboard for personal computer standard desktop chassis; and
- Cobb et al. [US 5,519,573] disclose an I/O raiser card for motherboard in a personal computer/server.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung S. Bui whose telephone number is (571) 272-2102. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamand Cuneo can be reached on (571) 272-1957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

8/20/05
Hung Bui
Art Unit 2841

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ISHWAR (I.B.) PATEL
Examiner
AU: 2841